Import of Cotton

3608. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal to import two lakh bales of cotton free of import duty for manufacture of hank yarn for distribution of handloom weavers has been dropped, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any proposal has been received from Members of Parliament to production of 225 million kgs. of hank yarn in cooperative spinning mills to meet half the requirements of handloom, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been received from Shri Pragada Kotaiah, M.P. (RS) for production of 225 million Kgs of hank yarn by providing working capital support to handloom weavers Co-operative societies. The proposal is under consideration.

Jute Mills in Andhra Pradesh

3609. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the size of labour force in these mills;

(c) what is the number out of them are working;

(d) whether any jute mill is lying closed in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what is the manner in which the workers are proposed to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) 4.

(b) 16,456.

(c) 2, as on 15-7-92.

(d) Two jute mills are lying closed in Andhra Pradesh, as on 15-7-92.

(e) The reasons for closure of these mills include *inter alia* financial/liquidity crisis and labour troubles arising therefrom.

(f) Government have taken several measures for the revival of these mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund, mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains, sugar, cement and urea purchase of B. Twill bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing financial, fiscal and market support. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce the preventive, remedial & ameliorative measures for the revitalisation of sick industrial companies. including jute mills.

Garment export during Eighth Five Year Plan

3610. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textiles Ministry has set an target of Rs. 21,700 crores for exports of different varieties of Garments for the year 1992-93;

(b) if so, what are the basis for this ambitious target; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

तकुओं वाली कताई इकाई की स्थापना

3611. डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हथकरघा विकास आयुक्त ने कुटीर उद्योग स्तर पर 24 तकुओं वाली कताई इकाई स्थापित किए जाने संबंधी एक योजना स्वीकृति हेतु सरकार के पास भेजी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या इस योजना के प्रारंभ किये जाने पर हथकरघा उद्योग के लिये कच्चे सूत की उपलब्धता में वृद्धि होगी ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस योजना को स्वीकृति दिए जाने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में कब तक ... ल लिए जाने की संभावना है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : (क) विकास आयुक्त हथकरघा ने सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा प्रस्ताव अनुमोदन के लिए नहीं भेजा है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Import of Wool by Carpet Industries

3612. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to satte:

(a) whether Government are aware that with heavy reduction in the import duty on wool, the carpet industry in the country and even Khadi Industries in the country is importing the wool instead of purchasing it from the cheap breeders who produces the wool locally in Rajasthan thereby depressing the prices of wool to unremunerative levels in that State;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has written a D.O. letter in January, 1992 in this regard to the Union Textiles Minister, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action the Union Government have taken so far on the request of Rajasthan Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There is no report of any heavy import of New Zealand Wool,, on the contrary the import of New Zealand Wool has come down by 1135 tones in 1991-92 over the previous year. The prices of Rajasthan Carpet grade wool have been fluctuating since January, 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister in his letter has proposed for removal of wool from Open General Licence List, increase in import duty of carpet grade wool, for the carpet sector wool of 36 micron and above may be allowed.

(c) Matter has been examined. Wool has to be imported as desired quality is not available in the country to face stiff ocmpetition by Indian Carpet Industry in the International market. In order to improve the quality and quantity of domestic production, certain schemes have been proposed in the VIIIth Plan. Chief Minister of Rajasthan has been also requested to initiate steps to improve quality of wool in the State.

Prices of Textile Raw Materials

3613. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS.
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVE-SHANKER DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the prices exclusive of the excise duty in each